

race, ethnicity, religion or sexual orientation and is a partner agency of the United Way. It offers programs to people, such as transportation, immigration immersion, translation and health services, among many others.

In cooperation with federal and state agencies, MCOHA administers several programs, including the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, LIHEAP, Universal Service Fund, USF and New Jersey Shares, among others. Another offered program is the Weatherization Assistance Program, WX, which aims to educate low income families on the importance of increasing energy efficiency in their home and helping to install such measures. Additional programs serve as educational resources such as Computer Training classes, health seminars, and English as a second language.

Every year, MCOHA helps numerous families and individuals. Last year alone, the WX program serviced 300 homes and the Computer Training Program graduated 250 students; in addition, MCOHA provided health screenings for over 700 people and provided over 16,500 rides to seniors, preschool children and clients with social services/medical needs.

Throughout the year, MCOHA dedicates itself to providing educational forums and support to the citizens of Morris County. Its unwavering support of those in need and those new to our country is commendable.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Morris County Organization of Hispanic Affairs as they celebrate 35 years of dedication to the people of Morris County.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 14, 2011

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today our national debt is \$14,868,218,296,426.05.

On January 6, 2009, the start of the 111th Congress, the national debt was \$10,638,425,746,293.80.

This means the national debt has increased by \$4,229,792,550,132.25 since then. This debt and its interest payments we are passing to our children and all future Americans.

HONORING HISPANIC MILITARY
LEADERS

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 14, 2011

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, as our nation celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month, I rise to honor the men and women of our Armed Forces, particularly Hispanic service members.

Hispanics have served in the United States military since its establishment and have fought in every conflict since the Revolutionary War. Forty-four Hispanic Americans have been awarded the military's highest honor for bravery. In addition to these Medal of Honor

recipients, thousands of Hispanics have died in combat defending our freedom.

Beyond the military, Hispanics continue to play an important role in every aspect of our society, and their influence is growing. According to the 2010 Census, the U.S. Hispanic population surged 43 percent, rising to over 50 million up from 35 million in 2000. Latinos now constitute 16 percent of the nation's total population of 308 million. Hispanic population growth accounted for more than half of the nation's growth over the past decade.

The Hispanic population in the military has also grown, but Hispanics continue to be under represented in our nation's military forces. Despite making up over 17 percent of the population between the ages of 18 and 40, only 11 percent of the United States Army and the Air Force are Hispanic. Hispanics make up 12 percent of the Marine Corps and 14 percent of the Navy. While these figures are lower than the percentage of Hispanics in the general population, they represent a significant increase from 1994 when the number of Hispanics entering the Army was just 6.6 percent of new recruits.

Despite recruitment levels lower than the overall population, Hispanics are retained in the force and promoted at the same or higher rates than other groups. Today, I want to highlight a few outstanding Hispanic Americans who have risen to the highest ranks and are serving in high profile and critical positions for the defense of our nation.

General David Rodriguez leads the United States Army's Forces Command. As the 19th leader of this critical organization, General Rodriguez oversees one of the Army's most important functions, preparing forces for deployment to combat.

Lieutenant General Rhett Hernandez recently stood up the Army's Cyber Command, which brings the Army's cyber resources under a single command. Under the leadership of General Hernandez, Cyber Command is developing and protecting the critical network that links warfighters in every battle space.

Major General Angela Salinas began her military service as an enlisted Marine in 1974 and now serves as the Director of the United States Marine Corps' Manpower Management Division. In this position, she ensures that the Marine Corps has the right mix of forces to respond to any contingency worldwide.

Rear Admiral Samuel Perez serves as the Commander of Carrier Strike Group One. Carrier Strike Group One is based in the Pacific and has a 100 million square-mile area of operations. As a fellow native of Canutillo, Texas, I am especially proud of Admiral Perez's leadership of this important United States Navy combat formation.

At every level of our nation's military, Hispanic Americans are serving in critical leadership positions. They have demonstrated exceptional dedication to their country and their fellow service members. They have risked their lives fighting to defend our nation and our freedom, and we owe them an immeasurable debt of gratitude for their sacrifice.

IN RECOGNITION OF LGBT
HISTORY MONTH

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 14, 2011

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, October is LGBT History Month, and I rise to pay tribute to the remarkable achievements of numerous members of this vibrant community and to recognize some of the men and women whose contributions and service have made America better and greater.

I am proud to have supported the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," which was formally abolished by the military on September 20th, 2011 after an orderly transition program prepared troops for the change without affecting force readiness or morale. Our nation is now stronger and our people are safer thanks to the sacrifices made by these brave Americans, who no longer need to choose between service and silence.

There have been other changes for the better this year. In July, President Obama and his administration concluded that a critical section of the Defense of Marriage Act is no longer constitutionally defensible. And, on June 24th, the State of New York passed a law with bipartisan support extending the right to marry to gay and lesbian couples.

Just last week, history was made here in the House when our colleague, Congressman POLIS of Colorado, celebrated the birth of a baby boy with his partner, and became the first openly gay parent to serve in Congress.

This chamber has been enriched by his service, as it has by that of Congressman BARNEY FRANK, the first openly gay Member to serve in the House of Representatives, and one of this body's ablest legislators. Congresswoman TAMMY BALDWIN of Wisconsin was the first openly gay non-incumbent to be elected to Congress. Congressman DAVID CICILLINE of Rhode Island was the first openly gay mayor of a major city before his election to Congress.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor to serve with these great Americans and wonderful colleagues who overcame many obstacles and barriers to realize the dream of serving their communities and representing their friends and neighbors in the Congress of the United States.

History, and progress, is also being made at the local level. According to the 2010 U.S. Census, one of the largest LGBT communities in the nation is located in the Los Angeles-Long Beach metropolitan area, which I am privileged to represent. This dynamic community is culturally diverse and economically and artistically vibrant. I would like to take this opportunity to recognize two LGBT leaders who helped to make this possible.

Jean Harris was a lifelong human rights activist who employed her uncanny talent for community organizing to electing open-minded city officials and defeating discriminatory legislation. A true force in California's LGBT community, she served as chair of the California Democratic Party's Lesbian/Gay Caucus, president of San Francisco's Harvey Milk Lesbian/Gay Democratic Club, and vice president of the Long Beach Lambda Democratic Club. Indeed, many local leaders and public servants across California owe their careers to her tireless advocacy. Jean Harris passed away